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Counsellor

PUBLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS IN THE INTERESTS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Vol. 8 No. 11

EDMONTON, ALBERTA

December, 1963


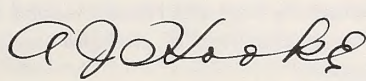
A JOYOUS CHRISTMAS TO ALL!



YULETIDE GREETINGS

Once again we want to take this opportunity to wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

We hope that the true spirit of the season is yours and that the months of the year ahead will bring you peace of mind and prosperity in full measure.

 
Deputy Minister Minister

"EXCELLENT CONDITIONS HAVE FILLED OUR GRANARIES"

SEES MATURE ATMOSPHERE

J.M. McKay was optimistic in his presidential address opening the AAMD Convention in Edmonton's Macdonald Hotel November 19. "The day of uncertainty as to boundaries and municipal structures has gone," he said, "and councils are now facing the future with vision and determination." All this added up to what he called "an atmosphere of maturity."

Text of Mr. McKay's address follows:

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this fifty-fifth annual convention of the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties. Surely when we assemble here most of us must give thanks for an abundant harvest. Excellent harvesting conditions have filled our granaries with large quantities of high quality grain. It seems almost an act of Providence that adequate markets have developed when they are so urgently needed. Unquestionably the prosperity of our farm population will have a buoyant effect on the economy of our municipal districts and counties.

This has been another busy year for the executive and staff of this Association. I have continued to enjoy the finest type of co-operation from our Vice President, G.W. Moyer and from Directors J.F. Smith, C.L. Doan and W.J. Rogers. Our Secretary Mrs. M. Smith and her staff have continued to display keen interest in the welfare of our Association with a sincere desire to give the best possible service to the membership. Alan Brownlee, our Solicitor, remains ready to do a good service whenever it is required. The wives of the executive members have accepted most of the responsibility in arranging the entertainment for our lady visitors. To all these people I express my sincere thanks and appreciation. Their loyal co-operation has made my work much easier during the past year.

All departments of the Provincial Government have shown a willing desire to assist us with our problems. Our own Department of Municipal Affairs has remained very close to us. The Minister, Hon. A.J. Hooke, his Deputy, A.W. Morrison and their entire staff deserve a special thanks for their continued efforts in trying to improve municipal government in this Province. Those of you who have not had the opportunity of working with this department as closely as the members of your executive perhaps do not appreciate how comforting it is to realize that we can go to them at any time with any (To Page 4)

CONVENTION MOVES TO CALGARY IN 1964

AAMD MEET ATTENDANCE UP

President J.M. McKay, Vice President G.W. Moyer and Director C.L. Doan were all returned by acclamation during the 55th Annual Convention of the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties to leave the Association executive unchanged for the third straight year. The big convention, with 617 registered delegates and visitors, was held in Edmonton's Macdonald Hotel November 19 to 22. It was decided by the delegates that next year's convention will be held at Calgary.

During the proceedings twenty-eight resolutions sponsored by some fifteen rural municipalities were dealt with. Twenty-one of the total were approved, while two dealing with highway construction were withdrawn (following the address of Hon. Gordon Taylor, Minister of Highways) and four were lost.

The convention got underway Tuesday morning with addresses of welcome from Lieutenant Governor J. Percy Page; Acting Deputy Mayor of Edmonton, Alderman Fred Mitchell; and Hon. Ambrose Holowach, Provincial Secretary. Mr. Holowach who brought greetings from the Government of the Province said all should work to help one another. "We are not competing," he said. In his word of welcome, Dr. Page paid tribute to farm people and called the farm unit "the most secure and most reliable unit of our civilization". Mr. Mitchell, representing the host city, hoped that something could be done about the high cost of education.

With Mickey McKay formally elected convention chairman, delegates observed a moment of silence for the municipal officials who have passed on during the year. (To Page 7)



TWO HEAD TOGETHER: J.M. McKay, President, Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties, and Charles P. Hays, Past President, stand shoulder to shoulder for a picture during the 55th Annual Convention. Mr. Hays (right) occupied the post from 1950 to 1959. Mr. McKay began his fifth term of office in November. (More pictures on Page 8)

THE SECOND PAGE . . .

GOOD TIDINGS

And there were in the same country
shepherds abiding in the field
keeping watch over their flock by night.

And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them,
and the glory of the Lord shone round about them:
and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them,
Fear not, for behold
I bring you good tidings of great joy
which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day
in the city of David
a Saviour
which is Christ the Lord.

o St. Luke

CONVENTION COMMENT

The first bitter taste of winter failed to discourage attendance at the 55th AAMD conference. Total tally included 266 registered delegates, 176 lady visitors and 175 male visitors. These compared with 245 delegates, 180 ladies and 166 male visitors a year ago. A full slate of 25 municipal districts and 23 counties were represented.

The number of cabinet ministers appearing on the platform this year also exceeded by one the five who addressed the 1962 convention. Beginning with Hon. Ambrose Holowach, Provincial Secretary, who welcomed delegates on behalf of the Province, members of the Executive Council participating in the 1963 convention were Hon. A. J. Hooke, Minister of Municipal Affairs; Health Minister Dr. J. Donovan Ross; Labour Minister Raymond Reiersen; Agriculture Minister Harry Strom; and Highways Minister Gordon Taylor. All six ministers received closest attention from delegates and visitors.

Apart from the subject matter of addresses delivered to the delegates by the ministers, at least two points might be noted from this part of the record: (1) The extremely broad scope of interests shared by the Provincial Government and the Association; (2) The mutually gratifying relationship which exists between what are called the two "levels" of government.

Most humorous story might have been that one about the chap who wondered how Gordon Taylor managed to have it rain on the roadway while gardens right alongside were drying up. A true story, Mr. Taylor told it to illustrate the chemical reaction of calcium chloride used on road surfaces for dust control.

Returning to the convention hall after having been out for a moment, Reeve Andy Patton (M. D. of Willow Creek No. 26) asked who won the money donated by a local bank and used as a reward for punctuality. Just at that moment the winning number was announced and Andy's query was answered when he went to the platform to claim the five-dollar bill.

Following the banquet address by Dr. C.F. Bentley, Dean of Agriculture at the University of Alberta, on the consequences of the present explosive growth of world population, a chap complained he would have preferred to hear something more cheerful and entertaining. No doubt there were others who felt the same way. The stark, jolting delineation of war, famine, disease and incredible hardship as the inescapable alternative to effective control of human fertility made uncomfortable listening . . . even after a sumptuous meal.

Instead of Dr. Bentley's sobering address, maybe someone should have rendered some stirring compositions on a fiddle.

Ross Ellis, attending the conference as a fraternal delegate representing the Union of Alberta Municipalities and as a member of the

Provincial-Municipal Advisory Committee, was not prepared to admit he was "inactive" in the field of municipal affairs. Quite the contrary. Having resigned in September as Mayor of High River to become full time administrator of that go-getting town, Mr. Ellis says he is more active in municipal work than he ever was. We're glad to report he was recently reappointed as UAM representative on the Provincial-Municipal Advisory Committee.

Speaking of the Provincial-Municipal Advisory Committee, Members J.M. McKay, Gordon Moyer and Ross Ellis, together with Deputy Minister Angus Morrison, took the platform to explain a proposed new approach to the problem of urban representation on county school committees. At the moment, a maximum of four towns and/or villages may be represented at one time. The new proposal would have each centre which is a part of a county for school purposes elect a representative to form an overall general committee. Such a committee could in turn choose as many as four of their number to serve on the school committee of the county council. This would mean urban centres now having to wait years before having direct representation would share membership in the overall committee with school committee members. By a strong vote, the convention went on record as favoring the new proposal.

Remember the story about Harold Hopkins taking his sons on a walking holiday through the mountain country near Nordegg? During a lull in the proceedings, Harold pointed to the picture on the centre spread of the handbook. A giant "cat" is tearing out a road through bush and mountain country. "That's out west of Nordegg," he said, "where the boys and I used to spend our holidays." And then he added, "Things are kind of changed now. Country . . . machines . . . and people."

Due to some healthy differences of opinion, the panel discussion grouped loosely around property taxes turned into a convention highlight. Perhaps the most surprising view came from Reeve Brown (M. D. of Kneehill No. 48) who expressed himself in favor of assessing and taxing farm residences. "If we do that," declared Reeve Brown, "we can look our urban brothers in the eye." He saw the result as a shift rather than an addition in the total tax load.

A nice cross section of views, gentlemen. And we trust you all got a ride home.

During the convention, through nothing more than sheer curiosity we learned that Councillor A. L. McKay (M. D. of Fairview No. 136) has devoted almost twenty-nine years to the municipal affairs of his community. This moves us to wonder whom else we may be overlooking for our feature "Long in the Service". We have no way of learning who these veterans are unless somebody tells us, unless we read it in a newspaper, or unless (as in the case of Mr. McKay) we ask.

Publication of brief profiles of veteran municipal people in The COUNSELLOR has two chief purposes: First, we want in this way to pay tribute to councillors and secretary-treasurers with long records of service. Second we are at the same time compiling a permanent record of veterans who over the years have helped in the administration of their local affairs. We've always felt both purposes are of considerable importance. Contrary, if any? Carried.

THIS MONTH

SEES MATURE ATMOSPHERE
1963 Presidential Address by J.M. McKay 1 and 4

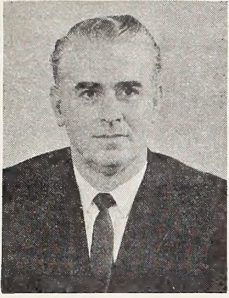
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THE ALBERTA MUNICIPAL COUNSELLOR

Published monthly by the Department of Municipal Affairs, Government of Alberta, for better understanding between persons engaged in the various aspects of local government within the Province. Contents may be reprinted without restriction but a credit line is appreciated. Articles and information about the municipal scene are welcomed and the publication will be mailed without charge upon request. Address enquiries to

The Alberta Municipal Councillor
Department of Municipal Affairs
Edmonton, Alberta



THE IMPORTANCE OF INDUSTRIAL GROWTH

BY HON. A.R. PATRICK
MINISTER OF INDUSTRY & DEVELOPMENT

FROM AN ADDRESS TO THE UAM CONVENTION AT CALGARY

Under normal circumstances it would be a very great pleasure and honor to address this 59th annual convention of the Union of Alberta Municipalities, but to have to pinch-hit for my friend and colleague, Alf Hooke, is neither easy nor happy for me. I know you will join me in wishing this devoted man a real good rest and a speedy recovery.

I suppose I won the honor of taking the Minister of Municipal Affairs place here for several reasons:

1. In the post-election shuffle of "acting ministers", I have been recently appointed Acting Minister of Municipal Affairs.
2. Since the inception of the Provincial-Municipal Advisory Committee, I have attended more of its meetings than any other member of Cabinet.
3. The theme of this conference would appear to be "the importance of industrial development to urban municipalities". I am Minister of Industry and Development.

In the time allotted to me I shall divide my talk between the last two of these areas.

FINEST PIECE OF LIAISON MACHINERY:

I know Mr. Hooke has had a lot to say to you each year about the Provincial-Municipal Advisory Committee. My attendance at so many meetings of the Committee (because so many problems and questions and delegations involve industrial development) gives me an excellent chance to watch its operation most objectively and I want to say in my opinion, it has developed into the finest piece of machinery for provincial-municipal liaison that has ever been devised. To me it represents the best of examples of a working democracy. Here I see your executive officers (these having included Ross Ellis, Jack McAfee, Harry Hays, George Prudham) together with the two representatives of rural municipalities and the Minister, tackling an agenda which is always full and which comes from any source of referral, receiving delegations or considering suggestions from technical people in the Civil Service. Here too the resolutions from your conventions are thoroughly considered from every aspect. In my view, this really represents democracy in action.

The Committee's first meeting was held on December 9, 1959 and in less than four years, thirty-six meetings have been held. The agenda in the first year were heavily loaded with studies, discussions, hearings and representations on the industrial tax plan and the proposed Bill 95. During the second year agenda were oriented to the study and achievement of Alberta's Foundation Program. Next came the urban county Act.

LIST OF ITEMS STUDIED:

Now let me skip over to the 28th meeting held October 11, 1962, and I shall read highlights from the agenda of the nine meetings starting with that date so you may get a better idea of what your Provincial-Municipal Advisory Committee is tackling:

October 11, 1962: Financing education; meeting with representatives of institutions owning property granted exemptions by special Acts.

December 6, 1962: Meeting with Minister and Deputy of Labour re overtime on municipal roads; "frozen" assessments of certain lands held for development; resolutions approved by annual conventions of municipal organizations.

January 10, 1963: Local authority pensions; TCA request for exemption; CPA delegation re industrial obsolescence; J.D. Campbell and custodial care; assessability of farm residence in urban municipalities.

February 7, 1963: Assessment of battery tankage; Public Service Pension Board; The Surface Reclamation Act; Delegation from Town and M.D. of Leduc; meeting with UAM executive group; draft of new Planning Act.

February 21, 1963: Charitable exemptions and other matters

raised by the Cities Section - UAM; Willow Creek M.D. delegation; The Accreditation Act; grants in lieu of taxes on auditoriums.

April 11, 1963: Rural fire protection; town and village representation on county school committees; power and pipeline excluded from fire protection levy; auxiliary hospital districts; special exemptions for religious institutions; custom spraying.

May 9, 1963: Delegation from CMA; meeting with Ed Nelson and Mrs. Taylor; urban representation on county school committees; assessment of motels in national parks; farmland assessments; pay-as-you-go planning.

June 20, 1963: Special levies in recreation areas as provided for under Section 14 of The Cultural Development Act and desirability or otherwise of a plebiscite; assessment of motels and other property in national parks continued; application of obsolescence factor over entire municipality in areas of economic distress, urban representation on county school committee continued.

October 17, 1963: Association of Summer Villages of Alberta representations re proposal to assess and tax mobile homes as improvements; Special Levies for recreation areas continued; urban representation on county school committees continued; Retired Railway Veterans' Association delegation re request for exemption from payment of school taxes; presentation re level to be used for equalized assessments.

You can see from these highlights the tremendous job that is being tackled by the representatives of urban municipalities, rural municipalities and the Provincial Government all working together as a team.

LEVEL FOR EQUALIZED ASSESSMENTS:

Just let us consider the last item on the agenda of the meeting held October 17. As a result of its deliberations relating to equalized assessment, the Committee recommended to the Government that in the future equalized assessment be based on the taxable assessments of the previous year rather than on the taxable assessments of the year in which the equalized assessment is established. This change is required because of administrative difficulties occasioned by numerous adjustments caused by appeals, etc. The Committee also recommended that future equalized assessments depict the approximate values arrived at in 1959 Assessment Manual which is the 1950 index year of costs, with the land assessed at 100%, improvements at 60% and manufacturing and processing equipment and machinery at 30% of these values.

Under this arrangement where assessments have been made using the new Manual, the taxable assessment and the equalized assessment of a municipality would be approximately the same. This will be the case in all except a few municipalities in 1964. In the few instances where the new general assessments have not yet been made in the basis of values used in the new Assessment Manual, the municipalities will have their taxable assessments raised to the new level for equalization purposes.

Equalized assessments on the new level would result in the total equalized assessment for the Province increasing by about 46.5%. The overall increase in equalized assessments would of course cause the Government to review the contributions from municipalities to finance the School Foundation Program and the Hospital Co-Insurance Plan and the mill rates on the equalized assessment, which at the present time are 32 and 4 mills, respectively.

The foregoing proposed change does not take into consideration a further possible upward revision of farm land assessments for purposes of equalization which urban municipalities argue is a proper step in the interests of uniform contributions to the Foundation Funds. This action course is strictly a matter of policy and one for final decision by the Government at a future date.

VITAL NEED FOR INDUSTRIALIZATION:

I was delighted to see the attention being given at this years convention to the vital need for industrialization of our municipalities. My two portfolios of Industry and Development; and Mines and Minerals; together with the Chairmanship of the Research Council, enable me to concentrate a great deal of attention on

EXECUTIVES FOR 1963-64

UNION OF ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES

Hon. President: George Prudham, Edmonton
President: Mayor Thor Forseth, Peace River
1st Vice-President: Alderman W.D. Dickie, Calgary
2nd Vice-President: Mayor J.E. Pike, Wetaskiwin

Executive Committee: Mayor George Repka, Grande Prairie
Mayor Frank Sherring, Lethbridge
Mayor W.R. Brunelle, Edson
Malcolm Tweddle, Finance Commissioner, Edmonton
Mayor N.S. Boyle, Taber
Mayor N.S. Roper, Rimbey
Mayor R.D. Burt, Cardston
Mayor W.J. Byler, Oyen
Mayor Ken Newman, Jasper Place

Secretary-Treasurer: Mayor E. Newman, Red Deer

Representatives on the Provincial-Municipal Advisory Committee:
Ross L. Ellis, Town Administrator, High River
George Prudham, Edmonton

* * * *

ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS & COUNTIES

Past President: Charles P. Hays, Strome
President: J.M. McKay, Brant
Vice-President: G.W. Moyer, Fort Saskatchewan

Directors: J.F. Smith, Fairview
C.L. Doan, Innisfail
W.J. Rogers, Millet

Secretary-Treasurer: Mrs. M. Smith

Representatives on the Provincial-Municipal Advisory Committee:
J.M. McKay and G.W. Moyer

SEES MATURE ATMOSPHERE
(From Page 1)

problems and receive their able and considerate assistance. The dividends from this attitude must be enjoyed by all citizens of rural Alberta. As most of you are aware Mr. Hooke has been in poor health since early summer. No doubt you will all join me in wishing him a speedy and complete recovery.

Your Co-operative Trading Division has had another encouraging year. Gross sales have increased to \$1,863,000 as compared to \$1,517,000 in 1962. The net earnings have also increased from \$81,424 to \$96,858. The business of Jubilee Insurance Agencies Ltd. which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of your Association has also had a record year. Dividends to participating districts totalling \$105,498.23 will be in the mail soon after the financial reports have been considered by the delegates. No doubt you will be prepared to give this phase of our activities the attention that it deserves. Your executive is very appreciative for the increasing support from such a large portion of our membership.

NEED PLAN FOR RATIONALIZATION:

Immediately following our last annual meeting I was summoned on your behalf to an urgent meeting in Regina to consider the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Transportation. As you are no doubt aware the chief recommendation of this commission was that all uneconomic branch railway lines should be abandoned as soon as it was possible to do so. The Regina meeting unanimously supported a brief requesting that any further abandonment be delayed until a long term plan for railway rationalization could be prepared and implemented so that the investment of all interested parties could be protected. This appears to be a sensible approach to a very real problem. The recommendation from this meeting was soon largely accepted by the government of the day at Ottawa. However, in recent weeks newspaper reports have indicated that the present Government of Canada has adopted a milder approach toward controlling the railway companies in the process of abandonment of their branch lines. This is alarming and further pressures should be brought upon the Prime Minister and his Cabinet.

The most impressive aspect of this entire controversy was to wit-

ness the united and unselfish effort displayed by the farm organizations of the Prairie Provinces. It was this group that saved the day for our farm people. Any person who has doubted the value of these organizations to rural life should have been a witness at this meeting. It is important that every municipal councillor, who is generally regarded as a leader in his own community, should advance whatever support possible toward the development of a stronger farm block. It follows that the benefits will soon accrue to all rural citizens.

Your Association has continued to enjoy one hundred percent membership of the municipal districts and counties. The transformation from the municipal district to the country type of administration has continued in this past year. Our membership is presently composed of twenty-three counties and twenty-five municipal districts with three more applications for counties being processed, which now indicates that over fifty percent of our membership has converted to dual administration. Through the years there has been a segment of municipal people who have advocated that when this situation arose our Provincial Government should arbitrarily force all municipal districts and school divisions to join hands and become counties. I have never been one of these advocates. Even though I have always believed that the county would best serve our rural people, I most definitely think it would be wrong to force this type of administration upon an area that was opposed. However, I am convinced that in every one of our rural districts a set of circumstances will sooner or later develop that will convince the citizens and the administrators of the area that the county type of administration is the one that will best serve them. When this develops the time is ripe to make the change. A great deal of harm could be done by making this change before the citizens of an area are ready to accept it. Most certainly the sitting school trustees and municipal councillors should try to accurately assess the wish of their electorate and then act accordingly.

PMAC AN EFFECTIVE INSTRUMENT:

The Provincial-Municipal Advisory Committee has continued to be an effective instrument in solving your problems. George Prudham has been appointed by the Union of Alberta Municipalities in place of Hon. Harry Hays. Ross Ellis continues as the other urban representative on the committee. Mr. Ellis is attending this convention so that he may better understand our problems. Mr. Moyer and I are pleased that the urban association decided to re-appoint Mr. Prudham and Mr. Ellis even though neither is active in municipal politics. These men are capable and fair. You can place your confidence in them.

During the past year this committee has been confronted with a myriad of problems of which the most significant follow: (1) Exemptions that exist in the assessment field. (2) The relationship of urbans to rural assessed values on land and property. (3) The Municipal Assistance Grant structure and its limitations. (4) The Accredited School Districts Act and its impact on non-accredited districts. (5) Town and village representation on the school committee of a county council. (6) The assessment of industrial properties as compared to other properties.

As you must realize many of these problems are complex and of long standing with no easy or immediate solution. However, the committee is making steady progress toward a general improvement. Certainly, good constructive resolutions from the delegate body of each of the two municipal associations are of immeasurable value in moving toward satisfactory solutions. All resolutions passed by last year's conventions were presented to the advisory committee after they had been considered by the Provincial Cabinet. The approval of this committee adds a good deal of strength to your resolutions. Our work has been delayed temporarily by the illness of our chairman, the Hon. A.J. Hooke. We are pleased to note that his health is now improving and he will soon be with us in his usual inexhaustible fashion.

EDUCATION TAX HAS DOUBLED:

Public concern continues to grow over the relentless increase in the property tax and its impact on personal income. The impact on personal income arising from the education tax alone has doubled in Canada since the war and the end is nowhere in sight. Our three sister organizations in the local government field have expressed their concern in recent conventions. It appears that the Associated Hospitals of Alberta would prefer to raise the co-insurance daily rate than to place a further burden on the property tax. The Union of Alberta Municipalities has come out strongly in favor of a gradual reduction in the thirty-two mill levy for the foundation program until the Provincial Government has assumed the entire cost of education. The Alberta School Trustees' Association has long requested new sources of revenue to finance the cost of education. Mr. Basil Dean, publisher of the Edmonton Journal made the following statements in a recent ad-

EDUCATION TAX DOUBLED (Cont'd)

dress to the trustees convention: "The penalty for failure to provide adequate education will mean nothing less than the disappearance of Canada as a nation . . . Property taxes should not be used to finance education as it is a function of society which is required not by property owners as a class but by society as a whole . . . Income tax, sales tax and excise tax on the consumption of certain goods and services would be a much more logical base."

We must all agree that Mr. Dean has given much thought to this perplexing problem. However, I am not inclined to go as far as Mr. Dean or the Union of Alberta Municipalities in my thinking even though I fully realize the urgency of maintaining a high standard of education. One approach to a solution for the problem appears in the Canadian Tax Foundations Issue January 1963: "It seems reasonable to allot to wider than local revenue sources the costs of maintaining educational standards and overall policies while retaining at the local level the cost of providing the schools themselves."

If this arbitrary division of costs were made, the result would be that across Canada only 20 percent of the present costs of education would be financed from local revenue sources. In Alberta the local contribution would be 15.2 percent based on 1960 costs.

You may agree or disagree with this division of responsibility between local and provincial authorities for the costs of education but it does establish that well qualified people are suggesting that some division of costs should be made soon with the objective of reducing the load on the property owner.

In addition to relieving our local administrations of much of its educational tax burden, it would open the door for improved services in other fields. Might I say a few words along this line.

PRESS FOR BETTER RURAL ROADS:

For sometime now I have become increasingly concerned over the need for a higher standard of road construction in our rural areas. This has been brought forcibly home to many here today by the development of the following unmistakable facts: (1) The rapid increase in high speed traffic. (2) The high cost of maintaining heavily travelled gravel roads. (3) The rapid depletion of adequate supplies of gravel in many of our municipal areas. (4) The extreme hazard of dust arising from heavily travelled gravel roads.

At one time I was inclined to believe that our municipalities and counties should even consider borrowing large sums of money to press a paving program to completion at the earliest possible date. However, of late it seems more sensible to suggest that we should make every effort to persuade our Provincial Government to at least partially relieve our local levy of the costs of education so that we might proceed with an orderly road improvement program to be financed from current revenues. Our local levy for municipal purposes has never been burdened with debt charges. It would certainly be most undesirable to begin the practice of borrowing for municipal services in the light of such a favorable past experience. Once this practice has begun it becomes very difficult to stop or even control.

Premier Manning announced in a recent press release that your Association would be represented in a factual study of public expenditures and the manner in which they can be best controlled and financed, having regard to the legitimate needs and best interests of the people of the Province as a whole. Undoubtedly many of the problems I have raised in the foregoing part of my address will be given very careful consideration in this study. I have been invited to represent you in this important task and I trust that I carry your confidence. Certainly I will make every effort to conduct myself in your best interests.

Over the past year the members of the executive and I have attended the official opening of a number of newly constructed rural administration buildings. These are fine structures and will serve the areas concerned for many years to come. At each of the functions which I had the privilege to attend a feeling seemed to exist upon which I had difficulty placing my finger. I have now concluded that it was an atmosphere of maturity. The day of uncertainty as to boundaries and municipal structure has gone and councils are now facing the future with vision and determination. The road ahead is rough, hazardous and littered with problems of great magnitude but I am confident that my acquaintances in municipal life will face these problems with courage, fairness and integrity so as to provide our citizens with the kind of administration in which they can take pride.

* * * *

Keep your temper . . . Nobody else wants it.

AAMD MEET ATTENDANCE UP

(From Page 1)

MINISTER OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

A large gathering Wednesday morning heard Hon. A. J. Hooke, Minister of Municipal Affairs, review progress being made and offer some suggestions for the attention of the delegates. He wondered if local officials had considered holding elections at large rather than by divisions and what they thought about electing their reeves at large. Referring to the Provincial-Municipal Advisory Committee, of which he is Chairman, Mr. Hooke told the audience that two recommendations made recently by the Committee were to have Alberta's equalized assessment totals based upon the New Manual and also that the totals determined for the year immediately past should be used for the current year. If the New Manual were used, continued the Minister, the equalized assessment for the Province would increase from \$1,800,000,000 to an estimated \$2,649,000,000 in which case the mill rate for school requisitioning under the Foundation Program could be reduced from 32 to about 22.

Mr. Hooke announced the M.D.'s of Vermilion River, Lethbridge and Leduc were converting to counties, pointing out that the majority of Alberta's rural municipalities were now counties. He said the situation was welcomed because the county form provided greater control over expenditures on education and placed the responsibility for collecting and spending tax revenues on the same people.

Reviewing the background of the \$15,000,000 unconditional grant under The Municipalities' Assistance Act, Mr. Hooke pointed out that if the grant were still equal to one half the total fuel oil taxes, the amount for 1963 would have been about \$17,600,000. Emphasising that he would not commit the Government on this point, he wondered if it might not be wise to go back to the original base, keeping in mind the possibility also that the grant would be reduced in more stringent times.

The Minister was not opposed to rural municipalities being able to issue debentures on the same basis as towns and villages, but he was strongly critical of any move to finance road construction and paving with 25 or even 20 year debentures. He urged local governments to build up reserve funds so as to carry out their programs on a pay-as-you-go basis.

Turning to the rising costs of education, Mr. Hooke said he had never heard anyone say the principle of Alberta's school foundation program is wrong. He said he was not advocating restriction of expenditures so much as having officials be sure that they are getting a dollar's worth of value for every dollar spent. He wondered why some schools could be built for \$11 per square foot while others exceeded \$13 per foot for school construction, and called upon teachers to use rather than to abuse their united strength.

TWO ADDRESSES IN AFTERNOON

Proceedings Wednesday afternoon were highlighted by addresses from Alan Brownlee, AAMD Solicitor, and Hon. Dr. J. Donovan Ross, (To Page 7)

OUR AIMS . . .

- To create and maintain good business methods in the council meeting, in the office and on the roads.
- To make efficient all departments of local self government.
- To insist on the lowest levies consistent with the proper fulfilment of necessary utilities.
- To seek to comprehend each other's viewpoint, efforts, conditions and difficulties, and find solutions therefor.
- To foster and assist all agencies for the betterment of rural conditions.
- To train and retrain our youth in the highways of truth, righteousness and good citizenship.
- To promote and develop high ideals and unselfish service in all who seek or hold public positions.
- To give of our best for the good of the community, the district, the province, the dominion and the empire.

o AAMD HANDBOOK

The IMPORTANCE of INDUSTRIAL GROWTH (From Page 3)

Alberta's industrialization. So very important is industrialization to our economy and to our tax structure that we must be sure that we leave no stone unturned in the attraction and establishing of industry in as many municipalities as possible in the Province.

Mr. Hooke was the first minister of Economic Affairs, which was a post war portfolio established to stimulate and encourage Alberta to move from a single agricultural economy to a balanced economy, and this organization coincided with the discovery of Alberta's great oil and gas reserves. When I took over the Office I heard him tell of Edmonton's original reluctance to let any petro-chemical industry establish within the bounds of that city. The same resistance used to come from other urban centres, and yet in 1955 when I became Minister, the first place I visited was Fort Macleod where I got "hail Columbia" because the Department "hadn't yet put any industry into that town." That was the usual reaction of any municipality as soon as it realized the value of industrialization. Councils seemed to imagine that industries were just waiting for us to "designate" a location for them to establish. That of course is not correct. Well, in the Fort's case, exactly 8 years went by until just a few weeks ago when I went down to open officially 5 fine new industries. I didn't bring them there; I don't think any one individual or organization or government did it. It was simply an excellent team effort - with all the physical factors right, plus a good industrial climate.

GOOD INDUSTRIAL CLIMATE

The term climate for industry is pretty hard to define, but we all have a part to play in it. From a government stand point, we must ensure many aspects including the following:

1. Stability of fiscal policies. This past summer, at the federal level, we saw the effect of the proposed imposition of the 11% sales tax and how it scared off new industry and cancelled out expansion plans for existing ones. Fortunately it was cut back. We also learned the effects of proposed restrictive measures against foreign capital investment. Over the years we have seen the tragic effect of provincial subsidies or tax concessions that have been experimented with in some of the provinces in short-sighted efforts to attract industry at the expense of their taxpayers.
2. We must recognize our assets by way of resources, power, water, labor force etc.; and our liabilities, such as distance to markets, limited markets, inaccessible resources. We must do an effective job of advertising and persuasion. We must provide economic studies and statistics. For instance, I have here studies done by Mr. Laidlaw showing how well we can compete in taxes, power costs, etc. with other locations in Canada. In Alberta we believe we must assist small industry by providing at lowest cost their necessary raw materials and inventory, while at the same time avoiding subsidization from public funds. We are constantly trying to discover ways and means to overcome the failure of Canadians to venture their own money in industrialization even while Americans show so much faith in Canadian industrialization.
3. Accepting the challenge that we are at the apex of freight rates, we are constantly working through our Research Council to find ways of meeting and overcoming such obstacles. This accounts for the great strides made towards economic development of forms of solids pipelining to make our primary resources marketable; better methods of releasing energy from our coal; more derivatives from coal, oil and gas; new methods of developing such resources as low grade iron ore.
4. Despite the fact that during the past decade we have industrialized faster percentagewise than any other province, the fact remains that not all municipalities can be expected to industrialize at the same speed. It was this factor that caused your Provincial-Municipal Advisory Committee to spend so much time and effort trying to find a way to distribute the increments of the industrial tax equitable among all your towns and cities. So often the opposition to such efforts is short-sighted. As Minister of Mines and Minerals I frequently get criticisms from town officials because of gas export policy. Yet surely we must agree that by far the majority of towns now served by gas, and those still to be served, would not enjoy this amenity but for a long range gas export policy.

PSYCHOLOGICAL RATHER THAN PRACTICAL

Recently the urban centres of Northern Alberta got together for a one-day conference on trade and commerce. Speaker after speaker illustrated that our main handicap to more rapid economic development has been psychological rather than practical.

Here in Alberta some of our manufactured products - chemicals,

SECRETARY'S CALENDAR

FOR JANUARY



Municipal District Act

5th - Secretary-treasurer shall prepare a statement of monies received and their disposition, submit to council at next meeting and enter a copy in the minutes. Sec. 61(v).

Jan. 1 - Taxes are deemed due on this date of the year in which they are imposed. Sec. 330.

Jan. 1 - Secretary-treasurer's security shall be renewed at the beginning of each year. Sec. 60(2).

Jan. 3 - First meeting of council to be held on this day. Sec. 39.

Jan. 10 - Secretary-treasurer shall complete books and accounts of the previous year and make ready for audit. Sec. 61(x).

Jan. 10 - Report shall be made to the Minister setting forth the amount spent in the previous year for the destruction of pests. Sec. 279.

Jan. 31 - Auditor shall complete the audit on or before Feb. 1. Sec. 68(1).

Council shall, as soon as practicable in each year, prepare estimate of revenue and expenditures. Sec. 331.

Town and Village Act

15th - Secretary-treasurer shall prepare a statement of monies received and their disposition, submit to council at next meeting and enter a copy in the minutes. Sec. 67(r).

Jan. 1 - Taxes are deemed due on this date of the year in which they are imposed. Sec. 352.

Jan. 1 - Secretary-treasurer's security shall be renewed at the beginning of each year. Sec. 66.

Jan. 1 - Penalties not exceeding 6% added to tax arrears. Sec. 373.

Jan. 10 - Secretary-treasurer shall complete and make ready for the Auditor all books and records of the previous year. Sec. 67(t).

Jan. 31 - Auditor to complete the audit on or before Feb. 1.

Council shall, as soon as practicable in each year, prepare estimate of revenue and expenditures. Sec. 353.

Assessment Act, 1960

Jan. 1 - In the case of an annual assessment, notice of preparation of roll shall be posted and published not later than Jan. 1st in each year. Sec. 30.

Jan. 1 - Secretary-treasurer shall mail assessment slips not later than Jan. 1st in each year. Sec. 28.

Jan. 1 - After this date appoint members to sit as a Court of Revision. Sec. 32.

Note: Assessment appeals, in the case of an annual assessment, within 30 days after mailing of assessment notices or, in the case of an adopted assessment, 30 days from the date of publishing notice of preparation of roll. Sec. 37.

Assessment of property which should have been assessed not later than Oct. 31 and was missed, to be assessed forthwith. ●

chemical fertilizer meat packing products, lumber, seed oils, to mention a few - have continental and world-wide markets. Let's remember then that the availability of cheap raw materials can more than outweigh any freight or tariff difficulties. Let's remember too that there is a considerable volume of venture capital which could be put to use locally. Almost every week I see an increasing number of Albertans initiating enterprises and making a success of them but there is still ample opportunities for individuals and firms from other regions.

From the municipal stand-point, we usually think almost entirely of the benefits of increased taxation resulting from new industries on our tax rolls. At the conference in Edmonton I displayed a chart showing the percentage division of Alberta's labor force in ten-year intervals from 1911 until 1961. This chart showed that in the last 20 years, 81,000 new industrial jobs were created. But more significant even than that, it illustrated the creation of another 160,000 service jobs, which means that every new job in industry created 2 new service jobs. If industry can do this for a municipality, each and every one of you should join the team to encourage the proper industrial climate and eliminate any factors that might work against your community sharing in such rewarding results. ●

AAMD MEET ATTENDANCE UP (From Page 5)

Minister of Health. Mr. Brownlee discussed legal problems encountered in the municipal field and warned local government officials against offering additional services beyond those they might be expected to provide. He cited the case where suit is being brought against a municipality claiming negligence which resulted in the loss of valuable cattle. Municipalities should be sure of their qualifications, he said, before extending special services to their ratepayers and suggested the use of a contract to clarify the responsibility of those concerned.

In his address, Dr. Ross dealt with the program to provide nursing home care now under study by his Department. He described the program as "filling the gap" existing between senior citizen lodges and auxiliary hospitals, and discussed at length the recommendations contained in the Interim Report of the Custodial Care Study Committee. Dr. Ross saw little difficulty in providing facilities required by the program but warned of a problem in finding adequate staff.

With the Department of Health being responsible for approved standards of operation, Dr. Ross saw no reason why private enterprise should not participate in the projected program. Profits should be controlled, he thought, so that capital might be recovered over a 15 or 20 year period. He suggested benefits under the program should be restricted to those having at least one year's residence in the Province and felt that patients should pay some of the cost with their pensions taking up the major part of their share, adding that their status and condition should be subject to periodic review. He wondered if local authorities such as the existing auxiliary hospital boards might want to assume responsibility for nursing homes and intimated that locations and number of beds required were problems still to be decided.

Dr. Ross stated the new nursing care program would fill a long felt need and would go into effect this coming year. He said local authorities being more familiar with local conditions were in a position to render invaluable assistance to the Government and appealed to those at the convention to assist his Department with all the information possible.

MINISTER AND DEPUTY

Hon. Raymond Reiersen, Minister of Labour, and Deputy Minister Ken Pugh took the platform Thursday morning to outline the background of two orders by which the Industrial Relations Board in 1944 had granted exemption to rural municipalities from having to pay overtime rates after a ten-hour day or a 208-hour month to employees engaged in road construction. After a short address by Mr. Reiersen the meeting was opened for questions and during the period which followed, it was pointed out that employees were often paid a minimum wage during slack seasons on the understanding that they would not demand overtime pay during the busy season. It was indicated also that the chief concern of employees was their take-home pay rather than the number of hours worked and a reduction in the latter would result in demands for higher hourly rates or would necessitate the adoption of a shift system.

Mr. Pugh read the original orders granting the exemption to rural municipalities which he said was due to the scarcity of labor in wartime. He said while terms of the order applied to road construction rather than to maintenance, the provisions had not been confined to this phase of the work. With the Board of Industrial Relations recommending that the two orders be rescinded, Mr. Reiersen and Mr. Pugh said the situation was now inequitable and both wanted to see the situation clarified.

In a vote called for by Mr. McKay, the delegates expressed themselves overwhelmingly opposed to the lifting of the exempting order. Later, Mr. Pugh indicated that the major importance of the exemption was attached by municipal officials to employees engaged in maintenance work and in any event, he said the matter would again be raised during the public hearings of The Industrial Relations Board which are expected to take place during the next year or two.

PANEL DISCUSSION

Second half of Thursday morning's session was taken up by a panel discussion featuring Reeve M.R. Parker (County of Strathcona), Reeve R.W. Brown (M.D. of Kneehill), Councillor Fred White (M.D. of Spirit River), Reeve T. Chamberlain (County of Wheatland) and Reeve W.J. Bagnall (County of Mountain View). With J.M. McKay acting as moderator, the subject of the discussion was related to services which might be charged to the property tax.

Leading off the discussion, Mr. Parker thought property taxes

should be used to finance only those services which benefit property. He said this type of taxation bears heavily on industry which requires very little in return and thought the cost of education should come from sources other than property taxes. He suggested income taxes or a retail sales tax should be seriously considered.

Mr. Brown came out strongly in favor of removing present exemptions on farm buildings. In his view these were unfair, especially since feed lots and small holdings were no longer low income businesses.

Third speaker was Councillor White who followed a philosophical approach to urge greater attention for planning and supervision. He suggested the best way to control the property tax level was to make sure of getting a dollar's value for every dollar spent. Mr. Chamberlain saw property taxes as a major factor in exercising local autonomy and wondered if the equalized assessment formula allowed too great an advantage for urban property.

Mr. Bagnall said he had observed that young people leave the farms after graduating from school with the result that rural areas benefit less than urban areas from the cost of education. He wondered how the taxable assessment on \$17,000,000 worth of industrial oil equipment could be reduced to \$1,500,000 and disagreed with Mr. Parker by saying he wanted to see industry pay a larger share of the total tax load. He did agree with the Strathcona reeve, however, on the question of a sales tax. "I can see nothing wrong with it," declared the speaker.

Marking his first year as Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Harry Strom reviewed the services of his Department for delegates Thursday afternoon. The Minister said drought conditions in the Peace River and in the south might necessitate a freight assistance policy to move feed supplies. He was not prepared to advise any cutbacks in crop acreage, which he said could be left to the farmers themselves.

Referring to crop insurance, Mr. Strom indicated the Government is moving toward adoption of a plan for Alberta. He said one of the problems is to decide on the size of a unit to be designated as a crop insurance area. This might consist of a county or a municipal district, he continued. Expressing favor for chemical sprays and insecticides, he said the advantages far outweigh the disadvantages when handled with proper care.

MINISTER OF HIGHWAYS

In his address Friday morning, Hon. Gordon Taylor, Minister of Highways, reviewed progress made during 1963. He said provincial grants amounting to \$7,500,000 had resulted in the construction of more than 2000 miles and the gravelling or regravelling of more than 2300 miles of municipal roads.

Mr. Taylor said he did not favor a program of oiling roads or the use of calcium chloride and suggested money would be better spent on a paving program planned for a long term and carried out on a pay-as-you-go basis. He said one of the problems now facing the Province relates to development in Peace River country where access roads are urgently needed. He pointed out that during the year 486 structures (bridges and culverts) have been installed or repaired and thanked municipal councils for the cooperation they had given the Department in this field.

Much of Mr. Taylor's address was devoted to safety. He said the record of level crossings where roads cross highways was worse than at railroad crossings, but added that the only real solution is to eliminate both types. Referring to the new arterial freeway from Lacombe to Leduc, he said the installation of separations every four to six miles was being undertaken with the closing of local crossings between these points under serious consideration.

The Minister spoke highly of the importance of driver education and cited the experience in the United States where such training is being provided in some 12,000 high schools. The accident record of students taking courses is far superior to those who have not been similarly trained, the Minister continued. He said a driver education program is underway in many Alberta high schools with more than 200 student drivers being trained this year by forty instructors. ●

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie;
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by:
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.
o Phillip Brooks

AAMD'S 55TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

... IN PICTURES



SIGNING IN: Reeve J.F. Smith, Fairview M.D. (right) reports appreciation of AAMD to officials Wally Tullis and George Parsons of the United Grain Growers who have assisted with registration of delegates for many years.



(Above): Municipal Affairs Minister A.J. Hooke and Councillor L.H. Erickson, County of Red Deer, appear pleased with convention.

(Lower right): President J.M. McKay (third from left) and Past President Charles Hays talk for a moment with Court Linton, Land Superintendent, Canadian Utilities, and Harold Hopkins.

Alberta Government Photographs



MODERN TIMES: Demonstration of big Sensimatic tax accounting machine points up changes since municipal veterans began work. From the left: Godfrey Baker, Secretary-Treasurer of Wetaskiwin County; W.L. Rogers, AAMD Director, Millet; Harold Hopkins, retired Secretary-Treasurer and now Western Municipal News Representative; D. N. Gardiner, Secretary-Treasurer, M.D. of Rocky View; Reeve J.H. Sutherland, M.D. of Foothills.



Deputy Minister A.W. Morrison (right) holds a small conference with Councillor Fred White and Secretary-Treasurer Jack Weberg of Spirit River M.D.



SENIOR CITIZENS: Some of the men attending the convention who have set records for long and distinguished careers in Alberta's municipal service. From the left: E. W. Miller, County of Mountain View, who served as a secretary-treasurer from 1912 to 1954 and as councillor since that time; Godfrey Baker, Secretary-Treasurer, County of Wetaskiwin (40 years); Del McQueen, Secretary-treasurer, Vulcan County (38 years); E.J. Martin, Secretary-Treasurer; retired, (43 years); Harold Hopkins (32 years); Reeve J.D. Sutherland, (44 years); Reeve Jack W. Smith, (32 years).

D. N. Gardiner, Secretary-Treasurer, M.D. of Rocky View, with 42 years of service, was not present for this picture but appears in one above.